

Introduction

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas. In performing this critical mission, the NWS provides for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

The NWS Service Improvement Plan (NSIP) is a compilation of expected changes in NWS services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004. NSIP is a living document, and regular updates will be made on <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/nsip.shtml>.

The most recent updates, can be seen by clicking on the 'What's New' section on the NSIP page.

NWS data and products form a national and international information database and infrastructure that can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the university community, the public, and the global community. Some 90 percent of all presidentially

declared disasters are weather related, causing approximately 500 deaths and \$11 billion in damage annually. Weather is directly linked to public safety, and about one-third of the U.S. economy (about \$3 trillion) is weather sensitive.

In addition, key NOAA customers, such as industry, state and local governments, and emergency managers are demanding more reliable and specific weather, water, and climate products for use in making key decisions. These multiple demands all point to the need to sustain and improve the observing, forecasting, and warning services of the NWS.

GPRA Goals

The NWS establishes and tracks key service performance improvement goals, and has been recognized as a leader in performance based management for delivering on their goals. NWS goals established by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, are referenced and charted within NSIP. GPRA goals are submitted by NWS to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). GPRA goals represent some of our tangible, measurable objectives. For more information on GPRA, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/mgmt-gpra/gplaw2m.html>.

Related Publications

Two NWS documents are referenced throughout this publication. The related documents are the NWS Strategic Plan, and the Science and Technology Infusion Plan (STIP).



A trilogy of NWS documents complement the NOAA Strategic Plan.

Strategic Plan

The NWS Strategic Plan identifies high level goals, activities and priorities for fiscal years 2003-2008. The goals of the NWS Strategic Plan parallel the NOAA Strategic Plan:

- ✓ **Goal I:** Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystems-based management.
- ✓ **Goal II:** Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond.
- ✓ **Goal III:** Serve society's needs for weather and water information.
- ✓ **Goal IV:** Support the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation. The complete NOAA Strategic Plan is at <http://www.osp.noaa.gov/strplan.html>.

STIP

The NWS STIP looks into the future and explains how science and technology may evolve NWS products and services. It defines long term strategies, objectives, and programs. The STIP illustrates how the NWS plans to take advantage of scientific opportunities beyond the next ten years. The STIP will be posted at <http://www.weather.gov/ost>.

NSIP - 2004

NSIP 2004 was written to translate the grand visions of the STIP and the NWS Strategic Plan into specific service improvements. This plan is based upon the President's FY 04 budget request to Congress. Contingent upon congressional funding, the NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) will guide development of new products and services.

Each new product will benefit NWS customers and bring the NWS closer to the vision described in STIP and Strategic Plan.

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